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# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

## At the Bargaining Table

### Wide range of sectors, Locals in negotiations this fall

#### The Government Community Workers

- **Component 18** Bargaining Committee, who represent over 400 members providing respite and home support to vulnerable Manitobans, are scheduled to continue their negotiations into November, while the **Université de Saint Boniface - Locals 147, 148, and 149** Bargaining Committees began exchanging proposal packages with the employer this month.

The **Westman Lab - Local 351** Bargaining Committee, who represent over 100 lab technologists in Brandon, began bargaining in March and negotiations are scheduled to continue into October.

Members of **Society for Manitobans with Disabilities - Local 262**, who've been in bargaining since 2014, rejected the employer's offer in September and talks have resumed with the aid of a conciliator.

The **Southeast Child and Family Services - Local 395** Bargaining Committee will be moving onto monetary discussions with the employer in October.

### Ratification Review

#### IERHA Tech-Prof/EMS -Locals 411 and 418

members ratified a final offer on September 14 after two years without a contract. Over the summer, the Bargaining Committee held information pickets throughout the region and received a strike mandate from members in July before the employer agreed to return to the bargaining table. They received a final offer from the employer on August 31 and the Bargaining Committee recommended acceptance of the offer.

Members of **Diagnostic Services of Manitoba (DSM) Locals (388-390, 392, and 393)** ratified their employer's final offer on September 22 after giving their Bargaining Committee a strike mandate on August 20. Talks resumed on September 1, when the employer delivered their final offer. Senior leaders from DSM and members of the Local will be meeting to look for ways to address issues of recruitment and retention during the life of the new agreement.

Members of **Willow Place - Local 160** in Winnipeg, and **Parkland Crisis Centre - Local 170** in Dauphin, all of whom assist victims of domestic violence in their communities, also ratified new collective agreements with their employers in September.

### Welcome to the October edition!

Here's what's been happening in our union throughout September.

If you have any questions, please get ahold of me through our Resource Centre (204-982-6438 or 1-866-982-6438) or e-mail me at [president@mgeu.ca](mailto:president@mgeu.ca).

### Strike Watch

Members of **Nichisawayasihk Personal Care Home - Local 367** rejected a final offer from their employer at the end of July and will be voting on whether to take strike action on Thursday, October 13, 2016.

Health care aides in Thompson currently earn nearly four dollars more per hour than those in Nelson House, a disparity that the employer has been negotiating with the Federal government to address for years.

### In the News

On September 22, the MGEU was happy to attend the launch of a new research paper by the *Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), Manitoba Chapter*.

The new report, which received extensive coverage with media outlets, finds that the current system of public liquor sales in Manitoba is in line with the World Health Organization standards (WHO) and ranks Manitoba's system as the best amongst the other Western provinces.

Greg Flanagan, who wrote the report, said that in Manitoba, public Liquor Marts bring in over \$280M in revenue and support over 850 good paying jobs for families in communities across the province.

The MGEU is proud to be a founding partner of the **Keep Liquor Public Coalition**, which includes a wide array of organizations committed to our communities.



As always, it was my honour to join our members at the annual Police and Peace Officers Memorial on September 24, at the Legislature. Events are held annually both here in Winnipeg and Ottawa to help us express our appreciation for those making the ultimate sacrifice to keep our communities safe.



GOLICO member and MGEU 2nd Vice-President Stephen Roznowsky shares a comment at the launch held in front of the Legislature.

## In Your Workplace

On September 26, I attended the first of six information meetings about the possible restructuring of the bargaining unit at **Red River College - Local 73**.

In late October, members will vote on whether to pursue establishing two separate bargaining units: one for Instructors, and one for all other staff. I encourage all members to attend an info session and discuss the vote with their co-workers and their elected leadership to make an informed decision!

## The Big Picture

### Tell the Gov what you think...

Our union has joined with the Manitoba Federation of Labour and 60 other community, labour and non-profit organizations, to call on the government to **increase the minimum wage**.

According to the MFL, sixty percent of minimum wage earners are women, many of whom have children. Visit [www.mfl.ca/minimum\\_wage](http://www.mfl.ca/minimum_wage) to send the open letter and help spread the word on social media.

Meanwhile, the Province is conducting **Pre-budget Consultations** in October. They're asking Manitobans to tell them what "spending should be prioritized, what innovations should be pursued and what waste should be eliminated." Let's remind

them how important it is to invest in the vital services MGEU members deliver every day. Visit [www.gov.mb.ca/prebudget/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/prebudget/index.html) to find out more and make your voice heard!

After speaking extensively about Bill 8 over the last few months, I'm pleased to report that the province's new **Domestic Violence Leave** is now in effect. Visit [www.MFL.ca/leave](http://www.MFL.ca/leave) and be sure to know your rights!

### Let's talk about risks of private care

Along with CUPE and MNU, we signed on this month to help promote a special October 25 presentation at the Hotel Forty Garry: **Privatization, long term care, and home care — what's at risk for Manitobans?** The event is free. All MGEU members are invited to RSVP to [ccpamb@policyalternatives.ca](mailto:ccpamb@policyalternatives.ca) or call 204-927-3200.

### Want to get this by e-mail?

Contact us to get this 5-minute monthly update delivered to your inbox.

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